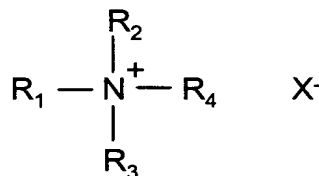


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1.(Currently Amended) A quaternary ammonium composition consisting essentially consisting of

a) a cationic compound with general formula:



wherein R_1 is C_8 - C_{22} -alkyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkenyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkylamidopropyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkenyl-amidopropyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl, C_8 - C_{22} -alkanoylethyl or C_8 - C_{22} -alkenoylethyl, R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are C_1 - C_{22} -alkyl, C_2 - C_{22} -alkenyl or a group of the formula $-A-(OA)_n-OH$, A is $-C_2H_4-$ and/or $-C_3H_6-$, n is a number from 0 to 20 and X is an anion,

b) less than 20 % by weight of water based on said composition and

c) a non-ionic solvent selected from the group consisting of [[as a solvent there may be used the following ones,]]

an alcohol or an ethoxylated alcohol with the general formula $R-O-(AO)_nH$, where R is alkyl or alkenyl group containing 8 to 22 carbon atoms, A is C_2H_4 [[and/or]] or C_3H_6 and mixtures thereof, and n is a number from 0 to 20, nonylphenol or ethoxylated nonylphenol with the general formula C_9H_{19} -phenyl- $O-(AO)_nH$, where A and n are as defined above, and mixtures thereof ~~which composition is characterized in that it contains less than 20 % by weight of water.~~

2.(Currently Amended) ~~Composition, according to~~ The composition of claim 1, which contains 5 to 60 % by weight of the cationic compound a).

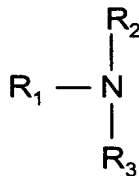
3.(Currently Amended) ~~Composition, according to~~ The composition of claim 1, wherein the cationic compound a) is an C₈-C₂₂-alkyl or C₈-C₂₂-alkenyl-dimethyl-hydroxyethyl ammonium.

4.(Currently Amended) ~~Composition, according to~~ The composition of claim 1, which has 40 to 95 % by weight of the ~~[[non ionic]]~~ non-ionic solvent c).

5.(Currently Amended) ~~Composition, according to~~ The composition of claim 1, which has less than 5% of by-products.

6.(Currently Amended) ~~Composition, according to~~ The composition of claim 1, which the ~~non-ionic~~ non-ionic solvent is selected from the group consisting of an ethoxylated fatty alcohol, a fatty alcohol, a polyethylene glycol, a polypropylene glycol, a block co-polymer of ethylene and propylene, a nonylphenol, a ethoxylated nonylphenol, and a mixture thereof ~~or a mix of these compounds~~.

7.(Currently Amended) A process for preparing a composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein R₄ in the compound a) is defined as C₁-C₂₂-alkyl or C₂-C₂₂-alkenyl, ~~which process consists in said process comprising:~~
reacting an amine of the formula



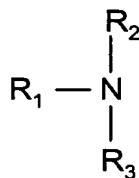
wherein ~~R₁, R₂ and R₃~~ are

R₁ is C₈-C₂₂-alkyl, C₈-C₂₂-alkenyl, C₈-C₂₂-alkylamidopropyl, C₈-C₂₂-alkenyl-amidopropyl, C₈-C₂₂-alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl, C₈-C₂₂-alkanoylethyl or C₈-C₂₂-alkenoylethyl, R₂ and R₃ are C₁-C₂₂-alkyl, C₂-C₂₂-alkenyl or a group of the formula -A-(OA)_n-OH, wherein A is -C₂H₄- or -C₃H₆-, or a mixture thereof, and n is a number from 0 to 20

~~as defined above with a halo alkyl or halo alkenyl of the formula R₄-X wherein R₄ is C₁-C₂₂-alkyl or C₂-C₂₂-alkenyl and X is chlorine or bromine in the presence of said [[a]] non-ionic solvent c) as defined in claim 1.~~

8.(Currently Amended) A process for preparing a composition as claimed in claim 1 wherein R₄ in the cationic compound a) is defined as a group of the formula -A-(OA)_nOH wherein A is -C₂H₄- or -C₃H₆-, or a mixture thereof, and n is a number from 0 to 20, A and n are as defined in claim 1, which process consists of said process comprising:

reacting an amine of the formula



wherein R₁ is C₈-C₂₂-alkyl, C₈-C₂₂-alkenyl, C₈-C₂₂-alkylamidopropyl, C₈-C₂₂-alkenyl-amidopropyl, C₈-C₂₂-alkyl/alkenyl(poly)alkoxyalkyl, C₈-C₂₂-alkanoylethyl or C₈-C₂₂-alkenoylethyl, R₂ and R₃ are C₁-C₂₂-alkyl, C₂-C₂₂-alkenyl or a group of the formula -A-(OA)_n-OH, wherein A is -C₂H₄- or -C₃H₆-, or a mixture thereof, and n is a number from 0 to 20

with an inorganic monohalo [[halo]] acid and than reacting the ammonium salt thus obtained with ethylene oxide and/or propylene oxide.

9.(Currently Amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 7 [[or 8]], wherein the amine is C₈-C₂₂-alkyl or C₈-C₂₂-alkenyl-dimethyl amine, or mixtures thereof.

10.(Currently Amended) ~~Process, according to~~ The process of claim 8, wherein the monohalo acid is aqueous, hydrochloric acid.

11.(Currently Amended) ~~Process, according to~~ The process of claim 8, wherein the ammonium salt is reacted with ethylene oxide.

12.(Currently Amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 8, wherein the non ionic solvent is Coconut PEG 7.

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Preliminary Amendment

13.(Currently Amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 8, wherein the first step is proceed in a temperature between 20 and 100°C.

14.(Currently Amended) ~~Process according to~~ The process of claim 8, wherein the second step is proceeded in a temperature between 40 and 100°C.

15.(New) The process of claim 8, wherein the amine is C₈-C₂₂-alkyl or C₈-C₂₂-alkenyl-dimethyl amine, or mixtures thereof.